

2006
September



UW — EXTENSION — LANGLADE COUNTY

Langlade Ag-Letter

Nutrient Management Planning

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There is a growing expectation from government and definitely a financial benefit for making the most of your soil fertility and soil additives. The process is called Nutrient Management Planning and many know the standard as the "590 Plan."

Previously Langlade County UW Extension offered a 2 session program to assist farmers in writing a plan and to pay for some of the soil sample costs through a special grant. In order to get reimbursed for the soil sampling however, farmers needed to have taken both sessions AND have a completed plan.

We are offering the two classes again this fall for those who need to complete attendance at these two sessions and for those interested in improving nutrient management on their farms. New recruits are able to also develop a plan and have the opportunity to access some soil sampling incentives offered through the program. Already participating producers unable to complete the nutrient management class sessions will forfeit their reimbursement to newcomers who will then have an equal opportunity to complete the plan.

The dates are October 6th, and October 13th at the Eau Claire River Room of the Langlade Resource Center. A SNAP Plus training will follow the second session as a highly recommended stand alone program (see details at right.)

Phone registration (627-6236) is required; as to prepare enough lunches, materials, and copies of the new version of SNAP Plus.

Oct 6. (Fri)
10:00—3:00 Planning Nitrogen

Oct 13 (Fri)
10:00-12:00 Planning P & K
12:30-3:30 SNAP Plus Training



SNAP Plus Training

Snap-Plus is a Microsoft Windows® based Nutrient Management Planning software program designed for the preparation of nutrient management plans in accordance with Wisconsin's Nutrient Management Standard Code 590.

We have reserved 24 computers at NTC for an afternoon workshop led by DATCP trainers. Each farmer will have a computer provided with a sample of their own farm's soil files available for use.

There is no cost for this afternoon training, but registration is required. Register with Sally Hull (627-6236) at UW Extension. The training will begin at 12:30 p.m. and run till 3:30 p.m. Friday October 13th.

In order to use your own data, participants should have bagged soil samples to UW Extension by September 15th or original paper copies of their current soil tests. UW Extension will pay for 3-4 samples for each newly participating farm (number depending on length of crop rotation.)

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Dates to Remember:

September 7 Apple Workshop
September 12 Saxon Homestead Bus Tour
September 16 20th Annual Spud Bowl
September 18 Wilson Pasture Walk
September 19 Master Gardener Begins
October 6 & 13 NMP Training
December 7-9 25th Annual NPC Seed Sem.

Gov. Doyle Announces \$25,000 Grant to Boost WI Potato Profit

Potato and Vegetable Growers Receive Funding To Develop Better French Fries

Governor Jim Doyle announced August 24th that the Wisconsin Potato and Vegetable Growers Association will receive a \$25,000 grant for a project that is expected to improve profits for the state's potato farmers and processors.

Governor Doyle made the announcement on the Wild Seed Farms, Inc. near Antigo as part of Capital for the Day in Langlade and Lincoln counties.

"Potatoes are an important part of Wisconsin's diverse agriculture economy. Wisconsin ranks third in the nation in potato production with about \$200 million in sales annually," said Governor



Doyle. "This grant will help our potato farmers compete at the high-end and continue to modernize their industry."

Potatoes are grown on 70,000 acres annually in Wisconsin with an estimated 35 to 40% of the crop being processed as French fries and other frozen processed products.

Mike Carter, Executive Director of the WPVGA and grant applicant, said

the funds will be used to improve potato fry color by researching potato production practices, including irrigation, harvest and storage management. The color of fried potatoes affects their value to the processor.

"Good fry color adds value to Wisconsin potatoes and impacts the bottom line," said Carter.

Grant funds come from the state's Agricultural Development and Diversification grant program coordinated by the Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection. This is one of 18 projects across the state selected for their innovation and potential for adding value to Wisconsin products, enabling farmers to compete at the high end.

Rotational Grazing Practiced on 25% of WI Dairies

Since the early days of grazing in the state 15-20 years ago, Grazing has really made a place in the industry. I moved to WI in 1997 to explore the concept of grass managed as a crop and to harvest it with dairy cattle, back then it was a novel idea. For most in the farming community, the adopters bordered on eccentric. But now, with 25% of WI farms using this production method Wisconsin has either gone mad—or the industry is onto something.

Rick Adamski who was hired by the Lumberjack RC&D as a consultant has organized a pasture walk for Langlade and surrounding counties at the Dave and Pam Wilson Farm, Antigo. The walk will be on September 18th, 10 am-2 pm with luncheon.



From Antigo take Highway 47-45-52 south 5 miles and then Highway 47 east one third mile. The Wilson Farm is on the left (north side of the road). Rick Adamski, also operates Full Circle Farm with his wife Valerie. It is a 64 cow organic dairy farm in Shawano County. If you would like an informal farm visit to discuss grazing with Rick, you can call him at 920-833-6704 or e-mail him at radamski@itol.com.

The Wilsons recently hosted WI Secretary of Agriculture Rod Nilsestuen for a discussion on bolstering funding for technical support and research for graziers in the upcoming state budget. The Wilson's have also been actively pursuing "Grass Point" marketing for their milk.

Bus Tour to Saxon Homestead Farm

September 12th

The Klessig and Heimerl families operate this 400 cow dairy in Manitowoc County near the shores of Lake Michigan. They combine rotational grazing, dairy cattle, dairy steers, and seasonal calving to form the foundation of their farming operation. They have been dedicated to creating a high quality milk product from happy cows.

They strive for efficient and profitable production, animal comfort, land, water, and environmental stewardship, and family and employee well-being.

Contact Paul Daigle for details:
715-261-6006

Organic dairy farming is a vital and growing component of the Wisconsin dairy industry. Even though organic dairy accounts for only two percent of the state's dairy farms, Wisconsin is one of the top two producers of organic dairy products in the U.S. and produces about one-third of all organic dairy products nationwide. It is also home to the largest organic milk cooperative.

A strong demand for organic milk products provides a growing potential for continued expansion of this agriculture sector within the state. Even so, very little is known about how organic farms compare with other types of dairy operations. A recent report from the Program on Agricultural Technology Studies (PATS) - "Organic Dairy Farms in Wisconsin: Prosperous, Modern, and Expansive" - provides the first comprehensive, descriptive picture of organic dairy farming in Wisconsin. This report compares organic farms with other types of dairy operations in terms of demographic characteristics of the producers, size and structure of the farms, management practices and technologies utilized, overall economic performance, and quality of life. Comparisons of organic farms with grazing and conventional operations provide some surprising results.

Some Farm Shop Floor Drains Illegal After January 1, 2008

Effective Jan. 1, 2008, all facilities with floor drains or shop sinks that now connect to septic systems or dry wells are required by federal and state law to report the existence of those drains and sinks and connect them to a sanitary sewer or a holding tank approved for commercial industrial waste fluids, according to Rich Roth, a water supply specialist with the Department of Natural Resources. If a facility has no shop drains or if those drains are already connected to a sanitary sewer or commercial wastewater holding tank, it is not required to do any reporting or take any other action.

The requirements apply to any facilities that service vehicles including air craft hangars, marinas, larger fleet operations, local fire stations and county or town garages. Operations that do not meet the deadline face federal fines of up to \$10,000 a day, Roth says.

"Meeting the federal deadline will allow affected facilities to protect their employees and local drinking water supplies, and to avoid costly federal fines," he says. "It also reduces their liability if groundwater is contaminated as a result of their operation."

While Roth will send reminder letters to the 200 known operations on DNR's existing inventory, there will likely be other operations not on the inventory that will be affected. DNR will be contacting trade associations and other groups to try to reach these other operations.

During normal vehicle repair and maintenance activities, vehicle fluids such as engine oil, transmission fluid, power steering fluid, brake fluid, hydraulic fluid, antifreeze, chlorinated or non-chlorinated parts cleaning solvents and degreasers may drip, spill or otherwise enter floor drains and

sinks in service areas, Roth says. Floor drains or sinks that empty into dry wells or cesspools introduce the wastes directly into the ground, while septic systems cannot treat the wastes.

If groundwater contamination occurs, the workers and anybody else who might drink water from a well on the same property as the service station would be at greatest risk, he says. Local community water supplies might be affected, and the owner and operator may be liable for any contamination to another well owner or the local municipal supply, and responsible for remediation, an often extensive and costly process.

Costs associated with cleaning up groundwater polluted by waste fluids from motor vehicle repair shops and areas has ranged from tens of thousands of dollars per site to millions of dollars per site, according to the U.S. EPA .

Master Gardener Specialized Training



Langlade County

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If you already have taken the Master Gardener General Training you might want to consider the Specialized Training available this Fall.

The Fall 2006 Specialized Master Gardener Program will be delivered by UW Specialists and other presenters with this years theme "Outdoor Flowers and Houseplants." The program runs Tuesday evenings 5:45 - 9:00 p.m. from September 19th-December 12th. The programs will be broadcast live from the UW-Extension Pyle Center on the UW- Madison campus to Langlade County.

The participant cost will be \$100 and class participants are expected to return 24 hours of volunteer service to their community in exchange for the 36 hours of train-

ing they receive. This fee will be used to cover materials, electronic and other overhead costs. Sites will have opportunity for interaction (Q/A) with the speakers.

The program topics are: Flowerbed Preparation, Houseplant Care and Culture, Gardening with Bulbs, Propagation of Annuals Perennials and Houseplants, Winning Combinations with Grasses, Gardening Under Trees, Water Gardening, Annuals and Large Tropical Plants, Hardy Shrub Roses for Wisconsin, Container Gardening, Garden Design, Home Landscape Irrigation, Native Perennials and Wildflowers.

Call Alex or Sally (627-6236) by September 7th to indicate your interest in this opportunity.

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