

NEWS RELEASE

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MANITOWOC COUNTY UW-EXTENSION DAIRY AGENT
COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-EXTENSION**

January 18, 2005

Manitowoc County Forage Council Forage Update Seminar and Annual Meeting

The Manitowoc County Forage Council will hold its Forage Update Seminar and Annual Meeting on Friday, February 11, 2005, at Millhome Supper Club in Kiel. The program begins at 10:15 a.m. and runs through 2:30 p.m.

This program is a cooperative effort among the Manitowoc County UW-Extension Office, Manitowoc County Forage Council and Lakeshore Technical College.

The agenda for the program is as follows:

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| 10:15 a.m. | Registration |
| 10:30 a.m. | “Selecting Hybrids for Corn Silage Production---Picking the Winners and Losers” ... <i>Mike Rankin, Fond du Lac County UW-Extension Crops and Soils Agent</i> |
| 11:00 a.m. | An update on Soybean Rust ... <i>Mike Rankin</i> |
| 11:15 - Noon | “2004 Corn Silage Concerns and Do’s and Don’ts Associated with Feeding Rumensin™” ... <i>Dr. Steve Woodford, Nutrition Professionals</i> |
| Noon | Lunch (chicken and fish) |
| 1:00 p.m. | Annual Business Meeting ... <i>Bryce Larson, President, Manitowoc County Forage Council</i> |
| 1:30 p.m. | “What’s New with Alfalfa?” (A Look Back at the Timing of 1st Crop Harvest; Fall Harvest Management and; Roundup Ready™ Alfalfa) ... <i>Mike Rankin</i> |
| 2:00 p.m. | “How Will Act 235 (Livestock Siting Law) Impact You?” ... <i>Scott Gunderson, Manitowoc County Dairy Agent</i> |
| 2:15 p.m. | Question and Answer Session |
| 2:30 p.m. | Adjourn |

The registration fee is \$15 per person. The registration deadline is Friday, February 4th.

Please make checks payable to “Manitowoc County Forage Council” and mail to: Manitowoc County UW-Extension, Attn: Dawn, P.O. Box 1150, Manitowoc, WI 54221-1150. For more information, contact the UW-Extension office at 683-4168.

Ag Regulations Update

With the regulatory environment of Wisconsin agriculture constantly changing, UW Extension Offices in Eastern Wisconsin will be holding an Environmental Regulation Update Seminar on Friday, February 4, at Liberty Hall in Kimberly. The purpose of the seminar is to make farm management professionals aware of new and emerging regulations that will have major impacts on their producer clients.

Laurie Fischer, Wisconsin Dairy Business Association, will open the program presenting an overview of current environmental issues facing animal agriculture in Wisconsin. Richard Castelnuovo, Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, will update participants on the Livestock Siting Regulation and how that rule will impact siting of large dairy operations. Tom Bauman with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources will provide a summary of new Federal CAFO regulations and discuss how they will be implemented in Wisconsin.

The impact of the new Nutrient Management 590 ordinance will be the topic covered by Tyrone Larson, Outagamie County NRCS. That topic will be followed by a discussion of the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program by Tim Siehr, Door County Farm Service Agency; a look at high capacity well regulation, Mark Putra, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources; and Statewide Water Quality Standards and Prohibitions, Kevin Erb, Regional Nutrient Management Coordinator.

For registration information, contact the Manitowoc County UW-Extension Office, phone 920-683-4168 or any UW-Extension Office throughout Eastern Wisconsin. The cost of the program is \$20 per person. The registration deadline is Friday, January 31.

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Getting an Accurate Forage Analysis from Large Rectangular Bales

Appreciation is extended to Mike Rankin, Fond du Lac County crops and soils agent for the following.

It's becoming almost the "norm" for hay to be packaged in medium rectangular bales weighing between 700 and 1000 pounds. It is often these types of bales that now dominate the quality tested hay auction scene. Buyers, sellers, and users of large rectangular bales often need to sample the bales for inclusion into an animal ration. The question then becomes "How many cores are needed to obtain an ACCURATE assessment of forage quality?"

Researchers at the University of Minnesota completed a study where they intensively sampled all bales (at least 6 cores per bale) in various hay lots to determine the actual forage quality and compared the results to those obtained with less intensive sampling protocol. One of the lots

was an entire truckload of 55 bales. In addition, several bales were cored 54 times each to develop a grid analysis and determine if core location within the bale influenced test. Bales were cored with a 14-inch long hay probe having a 3/4" diameter. Here were their conclusions and recommendations.

- Unlike small square bales, there was no consistent pattern of leaf and stem packing within the bales. This means you can take samples from any point on the end of a medium rectangular bale.
- It is most efficient to take one sample per bale.
- When sampling an entire lot of hay, core at least 12 bales (each sampled once) to get crude protein (CP) results within 1.2 of the true CP percentage. At least 7 bales (each sampled once) need to be cored to get Relative Feed Value (RFV) within 8 points of the true RFV. Sampling more bales than this may not give you more accurate results because of the error inherent in laboratory analysis.

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