

## NEWS RELEASE

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

**June 1, 2004**

---

### **Wet Weather Woes Causing Significant Crop Damage**

---

I recently conducted a survey of crop consultants in Manitowoc County in order to determine the impact of the prolonged wet weather on crop conditions. Five crop consultants responded to the survey. On average, about 50 percent of the corn is planted. That means that approximately 31,000 acres remains to be planted. In addition, approximately 20-25 percent of the corn that was planted will need to be replanted, weather permitting.

County-wide, less than 10 percent of the soybeans have been planted. Many of those acres will likely need to be replanted as well.

Approximately 90 percent of the new seeding has been planted, however an estimated 25 percent of that will need to be planted again.

Alfalfa quality is also being severely impacted by the continued wet weather. The Manitowoc County UW-Extension office, in partnership with local crop consultants, Steve Hoffman, Jeff Zutz, and Colleen Loppnow, have been monitoring and reporting the alfalfa maturity. The fields being monitored are owned by Schuler Dairy near St. Nazianz, Dick Halverson farm near Valders and Randy Wegner near Maribel. Alfalfa quality is measured every Tuesday and Friday. Based on those results, some farms should have started cutting alfalfa around May 21<sup>st</sup>.

Postponing alfalfa harvest 7-10 days will decrease forage quality to the point that farmers will need to purchase significant amounts of protein and energy supplements. Based on 64,000 acres of alfalfa in Manitowoc County, and a quality loss of 50 points of Relative Feed Value, I estimate that the economic loss for first crop alfalfa alone will be \$4.8 million (64,000 x 50 points of Relative Feed Value x \$.75/point/dry ton of hay x 2 tons of dry hay/acre).

This loss will likely be higher if we receive additional rain before the first cutting can be cut, dried and harvested.

The Manitowoc County Emergency Board met on May 26<sup>th</sup> to assess the current cropping situation. We will continue to monitor the situation and keep interested parties apprised.

## **Manitowoc County Forage Council Summer Twilight Meeting**

---

The Manitowoc County Forage Council, in cooperation with the Manitowoc County UW-Extension office and Lakeshore Technical College, has scheduled a Forage Council twilight meeting for Tuesday, June 22, 2004. The meeting will be held at Marsh Edge Dairy, owned by Steve and Mary Leitner, 17124 Moschel Road, Reedsville. The meeting will start at 7:15 p.m. with a welcome by Bryce Larson, Manitowoc County Forage Council president.

The agenda, including topics and presenters, include the following:

**"Is Your Land Base Maxed Out?"**

...Kevin Erb, UW-Extension Manure Specialist

**"Here's How We Solve Manure Concerns on the Farm" - Panel**

...Colleen Loppnow, Steve Leitner, and Lynn Davis

**Update on the Midwest Forage Association**

...Bryce Larson

**"Current Cropping Update"**

...Steve Hoffman, Jeff Zutz, and Colleen Loppnow, local agronomists

A tour of the dairy facility will be conducted at the conclusion of the formal presentations. The evening's events will conclude with snacks, including milk, cheese, crackers and cookies.

For additional information, contact the Manitowoc County UW-Extension office at 683-4168, or visit our website at [www.uwex.edu/ces/cty/manitowoc/](http://www.uwex.edu/ces/cty/manitowoc/)

---

An EEO/Affirmative Action employer, University of Wisconsin-Extension provides equal opportunities in employment and programming, including Title IX and ADA requirements. Please make requests for reasonable accommodations to ensure equal access to educational programs as early as possible preceding the scheduled program, service or activity.

- END -