

## NEWS RELEASE

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

**July 19, 2005**

### Low Precipitation Levels Hurt Crops

Since March 1<sup>st</sup>, Manitowoc has received 6.28 inches of precipitation, including the snow fall we received in March. Normal precipitation from March to mid-July is 14.51 inches...2005 precipitation levels for Manitowoc are 43 percent of normal. At this point during the growing season, crops such as corn require approximately one inch of rainfall each week. If this does not occur, significant yield reductions will result.

Damage to crops has already occurred as a result of the drought. Farmers are encouraged to closely monitor their fields. This is especially true with corn fields. Continued dry conditions will force farmers to chop corn for silage much earlier than normal. Field by field evaluations should be conducted. Working closely with a crop consultant is recommended.

The following tables describe the protein, fiber and energy values of immature corn silage.

| <b>Marshfield Station</b><br>Hoffman and co-workers, 1996 |                  |     |     |    |    |
|---|------------------|-----|-----|----|----|
|   | V9 <sup>1/</sup> | V12 | V18 | VT | R1 |
| CP %  | 14               | 10  | 8   | 10 | 9  |
| ADF %   | 25               | 27  | 27  | 26 | 33 |
| NDF %   | 56               | 59  | 54  | 51 | 55 |
| NFC %   | 18               | 19  | 29  | 30 | 26 |
| TDN %   | 69               | 68  | 68  | 69 | 63 |

- <sup>1/</sup> V9 = 10-12 leaves, no tassels  
V12 = 14-15 leaves, no tassels  
V18 = 14-15 leaves, tassels emerging  
VT = tassels emerged, main ear visible  
R1 = silks visible, pollination occurring

In the table above, CP stands for crude protein; ADF for Acid Detergent Fiber; NDF for Neutral Detergent Fiber; NFC for Non-fiber Carbohydrate; and TDN for Total Digestible Nutrients.

If it is necessary to chop corn silage earlier than desired due to severe drought stress, producers must monitor plant moisture levels. Conducting a dry matter analysis of representative fields is recommended.

## **UW-Extension Website Links Hay Buyers and Sellers**

---

Many livestock producers may find themselves short on hay or other feed for livestock because of losses to alfalfa winterkill last winter and abnormally dry weather this year.

“Some parts of the state, especially in eastern Wisconsin, have shortages already, said Mike Ballweg, University of Wisconsin-Extension crops and soils agent in Sheboygan County. “However, other parts of the state have good supplies because they weren’t affected by winterkill or have had more rain. This year, people who need to buy hay may be able to find it without searching out of state. The site has also been very useful for putting buyers and sellers in touch locally.”

Ballweg and other members of Extension’s Grain Team, have established a website where growers facing shortages can find growers who have excess feed to sell. The website is at <http://farmertofarmer.uwex.edu>. The Farmer to Farmer Hay, Forage and Corn List is free of charge for both buyers and sellers.

Ballweg said this site can benefit both buyers and sellers. Buyers can locate feed for their animals quickly. Sellers can find buyers for hay, forage or corn they don’t need for their own animals.

The website is easy to use and buyers and sellers can access it anytime between now and December 1<sup>st</sup>. People who wish to use this service but do not have access to the Internet can get access and assistance at their county UW-Extension office.

---

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 -